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tive, as Weismann points out (vol. 2, p. 152)! He says, a cell changes its *constitution* (*i. e.* undergoes a qualitative change) when "the proportion of the component part and chemical combinations" is disturbed, "when, for instance, the red pigment-granules which were formerly present but scarcely visible increase so that the cell looks red. If there had been no red granules present, they might have arisen through the breaking up of certain other particles — of protoplasm, for instance, in the course of metabolism, so that, among other substances, red granules of uric acid or some other red stuff were produced. In this case also the qualitative change would depend on an increase or decrease of certain simpler molecules and atoms constituting the protoplasm molecule." The foregoing quotation sets forth clearly Weismann's conception of the way in which a wholly new character may arise and I imagine that de Vries would accept the hypothesis. They would differ only as to whether there was at first a great chemical change or a slight one increasing with successive generations. Thus the essential difference between de Vries and Weismann shows itself to be one of degree only.

C. B. D.

The Oyster.[1] — A very fascinating book presenting in a thoroughly scientific, yet in a readable and popular style the complete development and anatomy of the oyster, the possibilities of oyster culture, the cause of the decline in our oyster industry, and the remedy.

One can hardly realize that since statistics have been kept (1865), there have been taken from the Chesapeake Bay, upwards of four hundred million bushels of oysters. "This inconceivably vast amount of delicate, nutritious food has been yielded by our waters without any aid from man. It is a harvest that no man has sown; a gift from bounteous nature."

This great productiveness shows how favorable this body of water is for the oyster, and what might be done under judicial management and culture. It is doubtful if the present areas of oyster beds (about two hundred square miles) can ever regain their former prestige even if they could be utilized to the best advantage by culture. The demand has continued and will continue to outgrow the supply. The area occupied by the natural beds, however, covers but a small portion of the bottom suitable for oyster-farming, "and it is safe to estimate the total area of valuable oyster-ground in our state at one thousand square miles." If this vast area could be properly developed, there should be a good supply for years to come. The author points out clearly what should be done, and we trust he will have the coöperation of every intelligent man in saving and redeeming this great industry.

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[1] Brooks, William K. *The Oyster. A Popular Summary of a Scientific Study.* Second and revised edition, with introductions by Daniel C. Gilman and Ira Ramsen. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, 1905. 12mo, 225 pp., illus.

C. W. J.

Sea-shore Life.[1]—Dr. Mayer has presented to the public a popular work which, while not without merit, shows a carelessness in arrangement and constant misstatement of facts which we hardly expect in these days when accuracy and precision of classification are considered of paramount importance.

The book presents a truly attractive appearance, and the figures with few exceptions are new and really valuable. The closing table of references seems well chosen.

The text, however, is the part which gives most evident signs of hasty preparation. The sections dealing with "Jellyfishes and Hydroids" and with "Sea Anemones and Corals" reveal no startling peculiarities, nor, except for rather unimportant details, do the following sections until we arrive at that entitled "The Crustaceans." Here the arrangement is startling indeed. Under the subheading "The Barnacles," the following genera are discussed and figured: Balanus, Coronula, Lepas, *Homarus*, *Palinurus*, and *Alpheus*. "The Crayfishes" follow in a perfectly rational manner. Next come "Shrimps and Prawns." On page 89 we read: "Shrimps are known to science as the Schizopoda!" And now these following genera, presumably Schizopods are discussed Crangon, Palæmonetes, Penæus, Stenopus, and last but by no means the least in this connection, Mysis. Among the "Hermit Crabs" we find Hippa and Squilla. On page 107, Geocarcinus occurs among the "Fiddler Crabs," and under this same main heading the spider crabs and Limulus. Among the molluscs under the heading "The Fresh-water Mussels," we find Pecten, Anomia, and Meleagrina.

We must not, however, presume to be hypercritical. For all its peculiarities this book will probably amuse as many as it leads away from the devious paths of correct scientific classification.

T. B.

[1] Mayer, A. G. *Sea-shore Life. The Invertebrates of the New York Coast.* New York Aquarium Series, No. 1. Published by the New York Zoölogical Society, 1905. 8vo, 181 pp., 119 figs.